

Discover the Kentucky River Watershed through History, Science, Art and Culture

Conservation Recreation Education

The Kentucky River Authority and the Kentucky Riverkeeper would like to work with teachers and students in the Kentucky River Watershed to introduce them to their Kentucky River and the importance of stewardship.

Purpose: Our goal is to teach students about their Kentucky River, how to protect it and how they are connected to it. We want the students to have an in-depth experience with/ or on the Kentucky River or creek in the Kentucky River Watershed! This lesson Plan will focus on FISH and watercolor techniques. The artwork will be considered for a T-shirt for the Kentucky River Authority Annual River Sweep. The artwork can be displayed and shown in other exhibits in your school and around the community. They will also be included on the Kentucky River Authority web site and the Kentucky Riverkeeper website. We believe the students voices and images will have a profound impact on our community, help build awareness and communicate the message of conservation, recreation, and education about the Kentucky River and be a beautiful T-shirt!!

Other lesson plans are available inspired by the plants, fish and animals from the Kentucky River Habitat and/or Conservation and/or Recreational aspects of the river.

Vocabulary: add these to your journal!

Line , shape , color, texture, value, space(depth-perspective) watershed endangered, fish, river, ripples, rain, Kentucky, mountain, streams

Make a poem called, Haiku.

This is a traditional Japanese poem with three lines and 15 syllables.

5 syllable first line

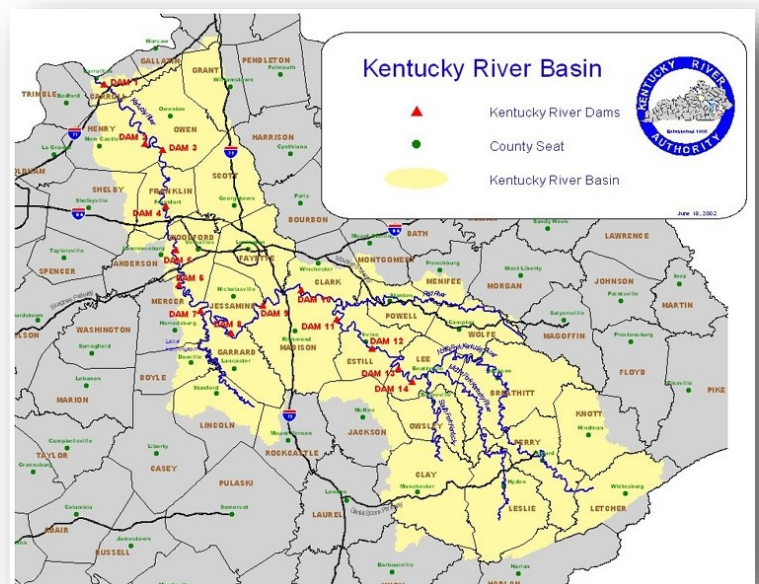
7 syllables second line

5 syllables third line

Using key words from your word bank create some haiku poetry!

Example:

Kentucky rain drops
Mountain streams to river make
Journey to the sea!



Find your place in the Kentucky River Watershed. Print the Map and put it in your Kentucky River Project journal/

Fresh water is the cornerstone of life on our world. Understanding our connection to it and its importance to our communities is critical for life on our planet to survive and thrive!

Lesson Plan: FISH! Create a T-Shirt Design! With artist Pat Banks

Age- Can be adapted to grades k-12. Older students can work more independently. We believe teachers are the experts in the class room and can adapt these ideas to fit their classroom needs.

Time: 5-days 45-60 minutes per class. Plus more time for other suggested activities.

Materials needed for each student:

- Project Journal/notebook to mount resource materials (photos), drawings, maps and techniques. You may use an artist sketchbook or if you are using a notebook use cover stock paper if you can ,so the maps and drawings can be glued.
- Copy of the Illustrated Visual Art Vocabulary- handout- This is an illustrated vocabulary of the elements of art with a few additions. It connects the students with the language of art and scientific descriptions to use as tools.
- Red, Yellow and Blue colored pencils.
- Paper towels, newspaper, water bowls (suggestions: yogurt cups, cat food cans etc. something with a wide flat bottom)
- 4 sheets of Watercolor Paper – Canson or Strathmore 9"x 12" are recommended for this project. Pencils #2 and separate good eraser (white) Watercolors - Prang or Crayola are the best brands and have a clean rich pigment and the primary colors can be mixed to make clean secondary colors. Brushes- the above watercolor sets have a decent brush however a detail brush, white synthetic #2 round would be a beneficial addition. It needs to have a good point.
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Placement set up and storage for each students work. This helps manage water, spills and germs! Have the students put their name on everything!



Student set-up



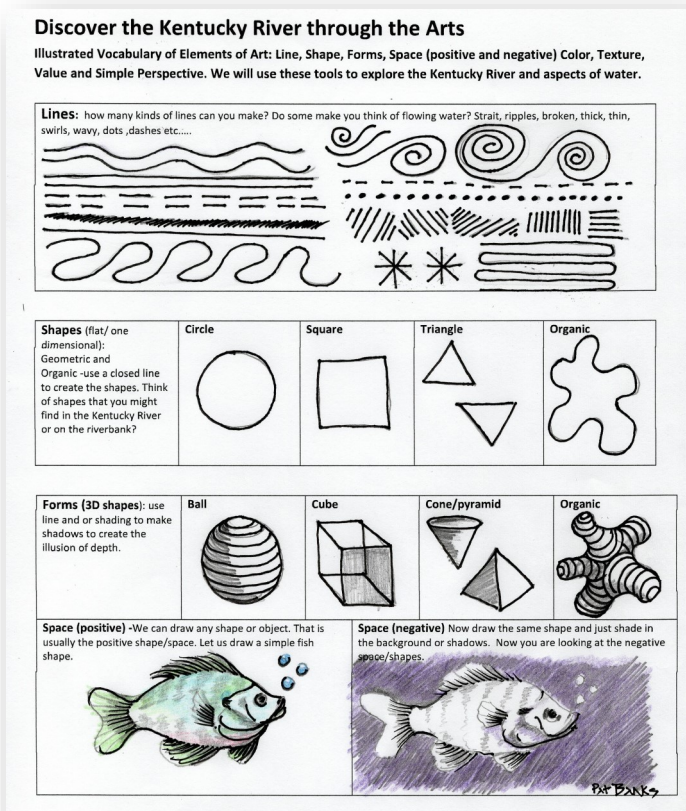
Suggested storage

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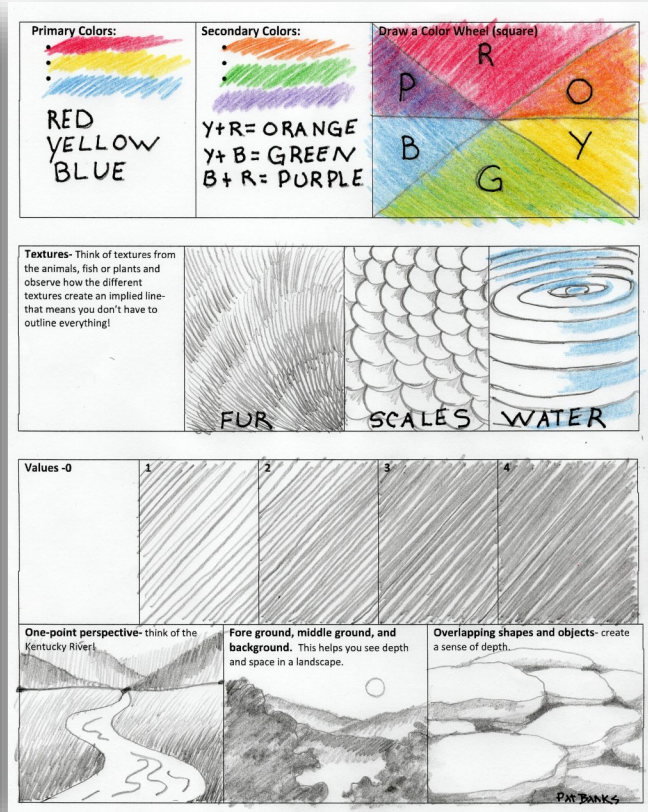
Day One- Introduction to the Project and the Illustrated Visual Arts Vocabulary.

What is the Kentucky River watershed? Have a map on the wall and a hand out. (see above) Have the students find out where they are on the map. Have a copy of the map for their journal! Complete the attached Illustrated Visual Arts Vocabulary. (See Power point) This Illustrated Visual Art vocabulary will introduce the students to the basic elements and tools of art using the river and watershed elements as the reference materials. It is important to do each example with the students. Give yourself a minute or two for each example. A few students might want to take a few more minutes but keep them caught up and allow time later to add more detail if they want to. This will be glued into the project journal/ scrapbook.

Set up and materials needed: The student tables need to be set up and ready to go to get maximum painting/drawing time. Each student will need , Project Journal/notebook, a copy of the illustrated visual arts vocabulary, pencil and a red blue, and yellow colored pencil. I will work alongside the students to complete the Illustrated Visual Art Vocabulary. We will gear the illustrations to reflect the river studies, textures, shapes and water.



Page 1. Illustrated Vocabulary of the Elements of Art and simple perspective.



Page 2. Paste these pages into the project journal.

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Day Two – Explore Watercolor.

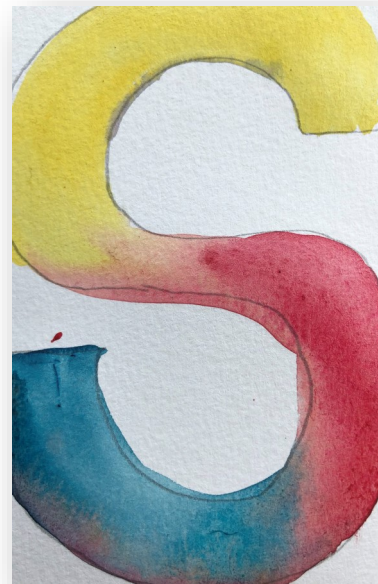
The student tables need to be set up and ready to go to get maximum painting time. Students will explore hands on watercolor techniques, learn positive and negative shapes and brush control.

We will use letters as the canvas for the watercolor techniques! We will need 4 assigned letters and 2 blanks for fish, per student (6) 4x6 cut watercolor paper approx. They will explore shape, and texture that will help them in the drawing of the chosen, image. We will use a combination of student letters to spell KENTUCKY RIVERSWEEP! Add these to the Project Journal/notebook

Set up and materials needed: The student tables need to be set up and ready to go to get maximum painting time. Paper towels, newspaper, water bowls, brushes, **cut watercolor paper 6- 4"X6" cut papers**, pencils, and watercolors. Pat will need the power point and computer set up!



We will spell **Kentucky Riversweep** with our painted letters!



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Day Three- Work on Fish T-Shirt Designs

Work on FISH T-shirt design using all the techniques and tools previously explored. The students will learn how to control the watercolors, work in layers and develop brush control. Today we will draw The Bluegill on two separate papers. Then we will add washes to the background and fish to prepare for details tomorrow.

Set up and materials needed: The student tables need to be set up and ready to go to get maximum painting time. Paper towels, newspaper, water bowls, brushes, watercolor paper, pencils, Artist (Pat Banks) will need a computer for the PowerPoint. and watercolors.



Bluegill

Member of the sunfish family.

Description: Deep bodied, small mouth, pectoral fins are pointed, sides are dark bluish-green with dark vertical bars. The belly is orange to rust color. There is a dark spot by the gill.

This is the reference photo from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, Fish publication.

Bluegill
Watercolor
artist
Pat Banks



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Day Four Work on Fish T-Shirt Designs

Work on FISH T-shirt design using all the techniques and tools previously explored. The students will learn how to control the watercolors, work in layers and develop brush control. Today we will be adding detail to the fish, values and textures.

Set up and materials needed: The student tables need to be set up and ready to go to get maximum painting time. Paper towels, newspaper, water bowls, brushes, watercolor paper, pencils, and watercolors. Artist (Pat Banks) will need a computer for the PowerPoint.

Day Five- Complete T-Shirt Designs!

Complete the creation of the designs. Compare the designs, talk about the process and learn from each other. Complete the Project Journal/notebook .

Materials needed: The student tables need to be set up and ready to go to get maximum painting time. Paper towels, newspaper, water bowls, brushes, watercolor paper, pencils and watercolors. Artist (Pat Banks) will need a computer for the PowerPoint.

Complete the project Journal!!!!

WOW I can
Paint Bluegill!!!!



Dexplorer the explorer

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Process and Follow up for the teachers working on the T-shirt Design:

Teachers and artist will photograph one of each students art. Take the pictures with the phone and label with student names. Email these to the Kentucky River Authority. They will Choose the art for the T-Shirt! Each student will get a T-Shirt!

Teachers will save the artwork design that is chosen for the t-shirt design. We might need the original art for the printing process. The original will be returned!

All of the student artwork can be mounted for display and shown in and around the school and community, Kentucky River Authority web site, the Kentucky Riverkeeper website, local library, or business etc....! Don't forget to finish the Project Journals!

Other Resources and Activities:

- Illustrated Visual Art Vocabulary attached, Elements of Art .
- Kentucky River Watershed Watch- Local members can do water testing with students.
- KY Fish and Wildlife, Endangered Species, River and Stream Eco – Posters
- Field Trip Salado Wildlife Center, Frankfort KY
- Field trip to the closest access point to the river or creek in the watershed.
- KY River Basin KY Geological survey website
- Kentucky Arts Council, Artist in Residence. Artists can be contacted to work with teachers in the schools. This is an incredible Resource for our students and schools!
- Kentucky River Authority navigation charts.
- Kentucky River Watershed Watch.
- Brief History of the River from dinosaurs to thousands of years of native American occupation to pioneers, farmers, boat captains to recreation and conservation. See our Chapter one. **The Geographic History of the Kentucky River watershed!**

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Other Activities:

The lesson plans about the Geological History, Watershed, Habitat, Water Cycle, Environmental-conservation, Lock and Dam system, the Kentucky River Water Trail and recreation are part of the Discover the Kentucky River Watershed through Science Art and Culture lesson plans and this Art/T-shirt project. But listed below are a few of the activities encouraged in the lesson plans.

Project Journal/notebook

Draw a Habitat in your Journal and list the common animals, birds, reptiles and aquatic life in the Kentucky River Habitat. We have endangered species in the watershed what are they (see poster from KY Fish and wildlife)

Create a short story using some of the creatures from the above list. Is there a problem that needs to be solved? Is there an adventure to be had?

Boat Ride! Get out on the water. Shaker Village has a riverboat!

Our river is under great stress from what we do on the land! Everything from mining, clearcutting forests, pollution from industry and our own households! Participate in a river/school/neighborhood/creek, clean up!

Add these new words to your Word Bank: habitat, ecosystem, endangered, wetlands, mammals, aquatic life, river, creek, soil, limestone, catfish, blue heron, bats, turtles, conservation, recreation, swim, boat, fish, line, shape, color, texture and more!

